(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this type of attitude would impact negatively the psyche and professional approach of Indian pilots;

(d) whether foreign pilots are appointed by Air India while neglecting Indian pilots; and

(e) the details of the number of pilots working at present in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no difference in the overall wage package of foreign pilots versus Indian Pilots.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) At present, 151 foreign pilots are working in Air India.

Guildelines for private operators on acquisition of airports

1216. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the transaction by owners of Mumbai airport buying into Bangalore Airport;

(b) if so, whether Government has any policy or guidelines with regard to private airport operators acquiring control of more than two major airports in the country;

(c) the view of Government on the increased monopolistic tendencies in the airport sector; and

(d) the details of steps proposed by Government to ensure that there is competition in airport management sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Neither M/s Bangalore International Airport Ltd. nor M/s. Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. have reported any such transaction having taken place.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Black marketing due to pilots leave

1217. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that when pilots of Jet Airlines went on mass leave leading to cancellation of many flights in September, 2009, other airlines raised their fares at their whims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) why Government remained a mute spectator to this black mailing adding woes of troubled passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It came to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that scheduled domestic airlines had increased their tariff on certain sectors when the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave.

(c) In pursuance of sub - rule (4) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued directions to all the scheduled domestic airlines to charge tariff prevalent just before the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave, which were complied with by all scheduled domestic airlines.

Night landing facilities at Airports in Himachal Pradesh

1218. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide night landing facilities for Bhuntar airport at Kullu, Gaggal airport at Kangra and Shimla airport in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned to meet the purpose; and

(c) the current status of the proposal alongwith the time by when night landing facilities are likely to be provided at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already provided aeronautical ground lighting facilities at Kullu, Kangra and Shimla airports in Himachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 3.55 crore and have been put into operation in October, 2009. However, night operations cannot take place at these airports since flights operate to these airports under visual Flight Rules (VFR). Initiation of upgradation of these airports for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and related works for night operations is subject to demand by airlines in this regard.

Operational airports in Uttar Pradesh

†1219. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational airports in Uttar Pradesh at present and the locations/ thereof;

(b) whether any proposal for setting up new airport of International standards is under consideration of Government to provide the facility of aerial movement to the people of Uttar Pradesh and to promote tourism as well; and

© if so, by when the construction work of these airports would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are seven operational airports in the State of Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Agra, Kanpur (Chakeri), Allahabad and Gorakhpur.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has considered the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for 'in-principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield International Airport at Greater Noida and referred it to Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers has desired a revised Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR). The State Government has been asked to prepare a supplementary TEFR. In addition, the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.